

elch Family

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AMERICA AND WALES.

The Earliest and Latest Records,—1841—1881.

By W. FARRAND FELCH, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

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REV. ISAAC NEWTON FELCH.

PART SECOND. THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

"My native country, thou, which so brave spirits hast bred,
If there be virtues yet remaining in the earth,
Or any good of thine thou bred'st into my birth,
Accept it as thine own, whilst now I sing of thee,
Of all thy later brood, the unworthiest though I be."

DRAYTON: POLYOLBION.

"Love thou thy land with love far brought,

From out the storied past, and used

Within the present, but transfused

Through future time by power of thought." TENNYSON.





INTRODUCTORY.

In ushering in the period of the Revolution, in its bearing upon our family history, it is proper that we give it fitting introduction. We had supposed, until our researches taught us differently, that our family was only concerned or engaged in the late war; but there were a large number of Revolutionary heroes among our ancestors; we are descendants of a fighting race, as is shown by the Lion rampant in the family Coat of Arms, significant of a warlike people.

Whoever has had occasion to trace his lineage back to the first settlers of the country, has learned the very loose way in which family records are usually kept, and has been surprised to find how little intelligent men and women know of their ancestry. It is quite common to find persons who cannot tell the names of their grand-parents, and many who are intelligent thus far, can trace no farther back. Not one in a hundred, we are safe in saying, preserves even the names of his ancestors, beyond the third generation. It is a duty we owe to our children, and to our children's children, to put them in possession of the names and dates in our family history with which we are familiar, and which will soon be forgotten if not recorded.

A. Bronson Alcott, the venerable philosopher of Concord, in referring to the fact that "intercourse is had seldomer than of old, names of kindred hardly surviving save in the fresh recollections of childhood by the dwellers apart," adds the truth:

"A people can hardly have attained to nationality till it knows its ancestry and is not ashamed of its antecedents. If



such studies were once deemed beneath the dignity of an American, they are no longer. We are not the less national for honoring our fore-fathers. Blood is a history. Blood is a destiny. How persistent it is let the institutions of England, Old and New, bear testimony." He concludes by saying: "Tis due to every name that some one or more inheriting it should search out its traits and titles, as these descend along the stream of generations and re-appear in individuals.

Let that pleasant task be mine. It is always interesting to know where our ancestors lived, and what their occupations were, and it is desirable that a man should preserve in permanent form not only his own family records, but that of his paternal ancestors as far back as he can trace them.

There are those who question of what use is a family record. It may be of no pecuniary value, whatever; it will add nothing to the fertility of your fields, and make no better sales for your merchandise; it will not consume any of your substance, nor add anything to it. Pedigree may count for much less pecuniarily in a man than in a horse. And yet, even in this democratic country, and in this utilitarian age, it is worth a man's while, as a matter of intelligence, to know something of his own origin, something of the homes, occupations, and characteristics of his ancestors. The knowledge would do him no harm, and it certainly would throw some light upon the tastes and peculiarities that he sees cropping out in his children, and help him to better methods of training.

Human beings are composed not of reason only, but of imagination and sentiment, also; and that is neither wasted nor misplaced which is appropriated to the purpose of giving right direction to the sentiments, and opening proper springs of feeling in the heart.



PART SECOND: THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

CHAPTER VII. THE ELDEST BRANCH, FIFTH GENERATION.

"They would not have tried to accomplish deeds that would belong to posterity, if they had not seen that posterity would belong to them." CICERO.

[Lineage: Henry, 1 Henry, 2 John, 3]

The eldest branch of the family remained in Reading many years, during several generations. Dr. Daniel Felch or Falch remained in Reading until late in life before removing to Seabrook, as has been already shown. Of the children of his brother John, the progenitor of the eldest branch, we find that John Junior (18) removed to Canterbury Ct., and was living there at the time of the death of his father who appointed him administrator.

Samuel, (19) the second son, removed to Cambridge; he had two children born in Reading, and Samuel, his son, was born at Cambridge.

- 46 Catharine born Feb 7 1716, in Reading.
- 47 Jemima born Jan 21 1718 in Reading.
- 48 Samuel born 1722 or 1723; md Eunice Walton Nov., 24, 1743 at Reading.

Samuel Sen. died at Cambridge, 1725. Administration granted his widow Nov. 22 1725. Guardianship of his son, Samuel Jun: then in his 18th year, granted to Benj. Smith, April 2, 1739. He died at Royalston, 1805, aged over 80.

Nathaniel Felch, (23) fourth son of John Felch, md Mary Hanks. Seven children were born to them in Weston:

- 49 Nathaniel born July 23 1733, died Aug 23 1733.
- 50 Nathaniel born April 23 1735; md April 2 1761, to Molly Hammond, daughter of Jonathan and Judith (Stearnes) Hammond of Waltham; she was born Sept. 5 1739.
- 51 Mary born Feb 9 1737, died Mar 31 1798, unmd, aged 61.
- 52 Elizabeth born Dec 31 1739, died Mar 8 1825, aged 85.
- 53 Eunice born Sept 19 1741, died September 25, aged 6 d.
- Abijah born Sept 30 1744, died Sept 9 1814, aged 69; he md April 16 1769, Lydia Clarke, daughter of Captain Jonathan and Lydia (Cutting) Clarke of Newton.
- 55 Eunice born Aug 21 1746, died Aug 26 1746, aged 1 week.

Of the above, Nathaniel (50) had a son born at Reading, (Jonathan) April 2 1762, exactly one year after his marriage, and he soon afterwards removed to Maine, where all trace is lost of his descendants; a tradition says that he settled in the center of Maine where his stalwart descendants still reside, "all six-footers." Mary and Elizabeth died, unmarried, at Limerick, York County, Maine. Abijah removed to Ipswich, and to Newton Mass., and then to Limerick. Several of his children, if not all, were born at Ipswich, Massachusetts,

His wife, Lydia, was born Feb., 24 1746, died Jan 10 1837. Mary (Hanks) Felch, wife of Nathaniel Sen: died Nov., 18, 1747; he married (2) Elizabeth Fuller, Jan 31, 1750; she died May 31 1761.

Ebenezer (24) fifth and youngest son of John married Mary Bacon of Needham, May 15 1728; four children b. in Natick. John born 1729, died at the battle of White Plains, 1776.

- 57 Stephen born Sept 10 1731, md and left five daughters.
- 58 Daniel born Dec 8 1734, md April 9 1763 Annie Bent
- 59 Mary born Feb 9 1739, died Aug 26 1813, unmarried.

Of the above, John had six children born in Natick: his descendants will be treated at full length by Miss S. G. Felch. Stephen's grand-daughters married Felchs, as will be shown in the following chapters. Daniel married Annie Bent of Sudbury, but no descendants have been discovered.

From information just received from the Town Clerk at Canterbury Conn., we glean the following account of the children of John Junior (18,) from which it would appear that he was twice married, and eight children were born to him, four by each wife. He married (1) Elizabeth Johnson, Oct., 18th 1714; she died July 14, 1735. Their children were:

- 60 Hepsibah born Feb 20 1716, date of death unknown.
- 61 William born Sept 10 1718, died Mar 21 1752, aged 33.
- 62 Elizabeth born April 20 1721, died June 22 1721.
- 63 Mary born Sept 8 1722, date of death unknown. John Jun: md (2) Sarah Green Mar 7 1737.

- 64 John born Oct 5 1739; md Sarah Adams Oct 29 1761.
- 65 Samuel born May 24 1743; md Mary Backus Aug 25 1765.
- 66 Sarah born Nov 19 1745; died Feb 2 1749.
- 67 Ebenezer born Mar 19 1754; died Oct 7 175-(4?)

John Felch (18) died April 22 1754, aged 66; there is the record also of the death of Sarah Felch, widow, April 17 1776 but it may have been Sarah [Adams] the widow of John, (64.)





Chapter VIII. Additional Data. 1648-—1675.

From "The History of Reading, Mass." By the late Hon. Lilley Eaton.

Since the last chapter was printed, we have received from Mr. Chester W. Eaton, of Wakefield Mass., a copy of the new History of Reading Massachusetts, compiled by the late Hon. Lilley Eaton. From it we gather the following valuable data:

1648.—"First election of surveyors of highways, chose John Poole, William Martin, Henry Felch, and John Pearson.

1652 .- This year the town ordered,-

"That the lottes that was to be laid out to be on Woburn line, is to be laid out on the Playne," etc.

Under this order the lots were drawn as follows: -

Henry Felch drew 10 acres; Samuel Dunton, 10 acres; Francis Smith, 20 acres, and others.

1653, September 10.—Henry Felch, being convicted of 'departing the publique assembly when the ordinance of baptism was about to be administered, was admonished by the Court of his sin, and ordered to pay costs to Jonas Eaton, two shillings."

1658-9.—"Names of the inhabitants of Redding, with the several plots of Upland, that were given to every man, as it fell to them by lott, on the north side of Ipswich river, with the no. of akers, viz.

Henry Felch [illegible.]

1666.— "Names of the inhabitants that drew land in the 'Division of the Great Swamp,' with their minister rates in the preceding year:—

Henry Felch, £1, 6s. 9d. [among others.]

1667.—There were at this time, already erected, fifty-nine houses, owned as follows:—

Samuel Dunton, Henry Felch, Joseph Felch, [and others.]

The above extracts afford an idea of the standing of our ancestor, Henry Felch Junior, pecuniarily and otherwise, which is exceedingly valuable and important.





CHAPTER. IX. THE THIRD BRANCH, FIFTH GENERATION.

"Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam, Survey our empire, and behold our home." Byron: The Corsair.

[Lineage: Henry, Henry, Daniel,]

The Seabrook branch is a race of sea-farers. We have already noted in Chapter V., all facts concerning Dr. Daniel Falch or Felch of Seabrook, we had at that time; but since then we have received from Mr. Oliver Eaton full data of that branch to the present day, which will be presented, as much as possible in his own words, with slight additions from other sources. In regard to Daniel Junior (38) Mr. Eaton gives as his date of birth April 5, 1718, instead of April 3, and adds:

"I find his name, for the first time, on the Muster Roll of Hampton Falls, of men under Captain Edward Williams, in 1745, who were probably attached to the expedition under General Pepperell, at the capture of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, June 17, 1745."

"He sold and conveyed his homestead land situated within Hampton Falls, containing about one-half of an acre, with the dwelling house thereon, to Jonathan Moulton of Hampton, by deed dated October 17, 1756, and recorded in Province Rec-

ords Vol. 51, page 337: an eligible situation, subsequently owned and occupied by Goshen Griffith as a Tavern stand, now in a good state of preservation! At this period of time, the estate of his father had undoubtedly been settled, and a division of the real-estate among the heirs-at-law, completed.

"He succeeded his father in the occupancy and ownership of a certain tract of land, on which he subsequently lived, and where he died. He married Jane Page of Hampton, Feb. 14, 1749; she died June 20, 1787: seven children born to them:

- 68 Molly, born Jan. 22, 1750, died Feb. 24, 1803, aged 53. md (1) William Cilley, about 1769; he died at sea, 1772. md (2) David Boyd, Dec 13 1774; he died July 23 1834.
- 69 Benjamin born Oct 3 1751, died in infancy.
- 70 Benjamin born Mar 28 1754, died prob. at Topsham Vt.
- 71 Rhoda born June 21 1756, died May 26 1785, aged 31. md about 1775 to Joseph Hook of Seabrook.
- 72 Daniel born June 18 1759, died July 12 1763 (?)
- 73 Amos born Oct 13 1761, died Feb 9 1780, aged 18, in the British Prison, New York city.
- 74 John born Feb 23 1763, md Mar 8 1787, Ruth Switcher. She was born Jan 22 1763.

Of the above, Mr. Eaton writes: "Molly lived and died in occupancy of the homestead farm, which was of her father, now in the possession of certain of her descendants. Benjamin removed to Topsham, Vermont, was married there, and left many descendants. Rhoda lived and died in Seabrook;

her daughter Molly married the Rev. Moses Bean of Candia N. H., where he preached from 1815 to 1835, and where also he was Selectman and Representative several years. Elder Bean's widow lived in N. Y. city, as lately as 1852. Daniel was of Boscawen N. H. in 1782, says Mr. Eaton; if that is true he certainly did not die in 1763. John removed to Sutton, and lett many descendants.

Concerning Deborah Felch (39) Mr. Eaton says that she was married to Abner Harris, removed to Ipswich Mass. and died prior to her father, Dr. Daniel; she left three children, Abner, Deborah, and John. He further adds, quaintly:

"I have known those who were habitually inclined to tell little anecdotes in relation to the sayings and doings of individuals, not only of their day and generation, but of the days and generations of their fathers,— anecdotes that were not unfrequently suggestive of the social condition of the person they were intended to characterise,— among whom there was one Deborah Felch, more commonly called 'aunt Deborah;' and there was also one Rachael Felch, who was frequently mentioned as of the next generation."

Regarding the remaining children of Dr. Daniel, we learn from Mr. Eaton, that Curtis settled at Fitzwilliam N. H. Joseph, born about 1725, married about 1756 Mary Hoit or Hoyt, signed the Association Test of 1776, and soon after removed to Weare N. H. Mary Hoyt was born Jan. 6 1739. Sarah born about 1727, died Jan. 13 1808, aged about 81, unmarried and

intestate, on the old homestead with her brother Samuel. Samuel, born about 1729, died June 3 1811; he married Jan 1 1755 Jemima Cilley, who died June 5 1817. Samuel was a farmer and fisherman; he lived and died on the old homestead which he divided into five equal parts, and conveyed in severalty to his five sons by deeds dated Nov 29 1808; he died June 3 1811. Hannah, youngest daughter of Dr. Daniel Felch, was omitted in Chapter V. but as she comes next in order we shall place the number 44 opposite her name, and 45 opposite Henry's instead of 44 as in Chapter V. Hannah was born Oct 24, 1731, died May 14 1746. Henry was born July 20 1735, died June 27th 1807. The particulars of his life will be found in next chapter.





CHAPTER X. THE THIRD BRANCH, FIFTH GENERATION.

"Come little fishes, bite at my hooks, And help me out in the merchant's books."

"Henry was a farmer and fisherman," continues Mr. Eaton; "he settled on Felch's Point, so called, where he committed suicide by hanging himself. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, drafted September 20, 1776, to serve in the state of New York." Here Mr. Eaton adds a quaint remark: "I would like to know if he carried his cane and Quaker gun?" The cane mentioned is probably the one now in the possession of Mr. Carlton Felch, of St. Johnsbury Vermont, reputed to have been brought from Wales by Henry Senior, — a precious relic: the oldest heir-loom in the family.

This Henry married twice, the second wife being Deborah Palmer, of Kensington. An old lady in Seabrook, one of the oldest inhabitants, an oracle of wisdom, remembers the facts, given below, concerning Henry, which were transmitted to me.

"They were Quakers. Henry was a fisherman in Winter, and a farmer in Summer; he was a lame man, and although a Quaker, seemed to be a singer and a poet; one little couplet of his improvising ran thus,—

'Come little fishes, bite at my hooks, And help me out in the merchant's books.' This he sang while fishing, and his song usually brought him good luck. He became lame by an accident, when quite along in years; this, combined with other circumstances, made his life a burden, and he hung himself, 1807, being then 72 years old. The Quakers would not permit him to be buried in their burial-ground, as he was a suicide. He left one son, certain. 75 Parker, who married Hannah Bragg, a Quakeress, and settled at Tamworth, New Hampshire.

The old lady could also remember "Skipper Daniel," who according to her account was a wonderfully popular man, and a sort of Triton; she said: "he was a beauty in form and face, and no man around could blow such a powerful blast on the trumpet."

"The Atlantic washed at their doors, and all had more or less to do with sea-faring. The sea was their element;" she said. "Why, when they were gunning on the water, and any of their game fell into it, somehow they would slip out of their clothes, and plunge in to swim for it; and they would often become so engrossed as to forget to dress for some time; they were called the Felch water-dogs; they were also famous hunters."

These incidents may seem trivial, but have their bearing upon the family character, and we have deemed this the most fitting place for their insertion. We shall hope to introduce other incidents as telling, to give spice and variety to the text.

One of the Seabrook branch was chosen tything man twice

and another was surveyor of highway in 1804. Here also, we find the tradition of the three emigrant Felch brothers, with this difference: "They came from England (?) and one was a doctor and went out into Massachusetts somewhere, the other two settled somewhere in the vicinity of Seabrook." This only serves to show how much the legend has been garbled, as it has only been transmitted orally. We shall rely upon the records in preference; we think this tradition arose within the past hundred years, from the inability to trace as far back as our emigrant ancestor. Tradition is apt to be an attergrowth, and depends largely upon surmise, with a jumble of facts so distorted that they can not be correctly placed.

The Seabrook records previous to 1755 have been destroyed, and only through the duplicate records of Mr. Oliver Eaton the indefatigable historian of Seabrook, have we been able to secure the complete record of this branch; he has kept the record intact, as well as that of many other families.

We are largely indebted to the perseverance and interest of Mrs. Elbridge S. Felch, Amesbury Mass., for information regarding this branch; she has neither spared exertions nor brooked obstacles in her enthusiasm.

Joseph Felch and Samuel Felch, sons of Dr. Daniel Felch, signed the Association Test, dated April 12 1776. Joseph was Parish Collector in 1776. He removed soon after to Weare. The history of his descendants has been compiled by Mr. John H. Felch, of Hancock N. H., and will appear in subsequent

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chapters of this work; he is greatly interested in the work; and has been of inestimable assistance to the compiler.

Joseph Felch was born 1729, and died Feb 5 1803, aged 74. He married Mary Hoyt 1756; she died April 4 1804 aged 65.

Eight children were born to them in Seabrook:

- 76 Annie born September 1757.
- Jabez born Feb 14 1759, died Aug 24 1830, aged 71.
 md Patience Johnson Feb 14 1785; she was born Oct. 8.
 1758, and died Jan 9 1844. They had five children.
- 78 Curtis born Jan 23 1761, died Jan 28 1849, aged 88. He md Sally Evans; she died Dec 30 1846, aged 77.
- Molly born May 12 1764, died Feb 10 1803; she married James Brown, and had one son James, born Jan., 1794, whose descendants live near Buffalo, New York state.
- 80 Joseph born April 28 1765 or '66 died June 1846, aged 81. He md (1) Sarah Ayer 1788-9; she died Sept 25 1797. He md (2) Abigail Manchester July 1799; she died Sep. 18 1859, aged 85.
- 81 Jonathan born May 29 1768, died Jan 27 1852, aged 84. He md Abigail Favor; she was born April 2 1778, died Jan 1 1862 aged 84; they had six children.
- 82 Benjamin Hoyt born Nov 12 1775, (?) died April 10 1848 md Polly Thompson; she was born Dec 27 1779, died Dec 24 1837 aged nearly 58.
- 83 John born July 1773, and Olive Thompson Dec 22 1796.

 There is a curious circumstance regarding the marriages

of Benjamin and John Felch which is worthy of special mention. They married sisters, Mary and Olive Thompson, the daughters of Samuel Thompson and Olive [Felch] Thompson. Olive Felch was one of the five daughters of Stephen Felch of Natick and Walpole Mass. Thus, it will be seen that Mary and Olive Thompson were of the seventh generation, while their husbands were of the fifth generation, only, beginning with our emigrant ancestor; this may partly be accounted for by the fact that the children of Dr. Daniel Felch of Seabrook, were the children of his old age, which would allow nearly the lapse of an entire generation, in point of time; again, Benjamin and John were the youngest sons of Joseph, and their wives were ten years younger than themselves, which would equal in point of time another generation.

Samuel, son of Dr. Daniel Felch, married Jemima Cilley, Jan. 1 1755. Nine children were born to them:

- 84 Nicholas born June 12 1755, died April 13 1840 aged 84. md Sarah Gove about 1779; she died Oct 20 1849. He was a farmer and also a soldier of the Revolution.
- 85 Jenny born June 1757, died Mar 11 1836 aged 78; md Jeremiah Brown; he died Feb 16 1846.
- 86 Samuel born Nov 18 1759, died July 17 1818, aged 59. He md Hannah Harris, widow, 1789; was a farmer and settled in Salisbury. He was found dead on the Essex Merrimack Turnpike, Salisbury; he died intestate.
- 87 Jemima born April 16 1762, died Nov 15 1816, aged 54.

- She md Belcher Dole Oct 18 1793.
- 88 Hepsibah born Oct 6 (or 15?) 1765, died Nov 10 1840. She married Benjamin Joy; he died Mar 21 1830.
- 89 Phineas born Mar 7 1768, died April 1840 aged 88.
 He md Sarah Ward Mar 19 1795, a descendant of Thos.
 Ward an early settler of Hampton; she died 1864.
 Phineas was a farmer, settled in Kensington, and died in Danville.
- O Daniel born Oct 13 1771, died June 30 1839, aged 67.
 He md Jenny Eaton Mar 18 1793; she died June 6 1840.
 He was a farmer and shore-seaman in the schooner fishery. He died intestate.
- 91 Jacob born Feb 3 1777, died Jan 28 1856, aged 78. He md Hannah Harris Aug 5 1802. She was a daughter of the wife of his brother Samuel, by a former husband. He settled in Kensington and died in Newburyport.
- 92 Betsey born Dec 3 1781, died Nov 13 1856, aged 74. She md Thomas Chase, 1800; he died Aug 8 1833, in the harbor at White Haven, Nova Scotia. She lived and died at Seabrook.



CHART OF THE FIRST FIVE GENERATIONS.

1 Henry Felch Senior.

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CHAPTER XI. ADDITIONAL DATA. 1648--1765.

From "The History of Reading, Mass."

By THE LATE HON. LILLEY EATON.

"Hail usages of pristine mould, And ye that guard them, mountains old."

"Henry Felch (Junior) settled first at Watertown, and removed to Reading in 1647. . . . We know not the original seat of the Felch family; but about 1765 a Samuel Felch was living on or near the spot where Adam Hawkes now lives.

On another page I find reference to the Felch homestead:

"A family of Felches formerly occupied this place. Samuel Felch was living here in 1760. Hannah Felch, widow of Henry, one of the first settlers, died on this place in 1717 aged 100 years nearly, who had lived in the town more than seventy years. Mrs. Mary Sweetser who was born 1710, and consequently was seven years old at Mother Felch's decease (living at the next door south, where A. N. Sweetser now is living) could well remember old Mother Felch. Mrs. Sweetser lived to be 96 years old, dying in 1806; and there are those now living who can remember Mrs. Sweetser: so that the memory of three persons stretches from the incorporation of the town to the present time," more than 240 years!

1686—"It appears that the town of Reading had purchased of the Indians the territory of Reading, some years prior to this date, for the sum of about ten pounds; but it had not been paid for. This year an assessment was laid to raise the money."

I find among other names "Henry Felch 2 s. 2 d. and John Felch 2 d."

1688— "A subscription for a new Meeting house was obtained, and the following is a list of the names and contributions of the subscribers." (among others) John Felch, 11 s.

Sergt. Henry Felch £2, Joseph Felch (illegible.)

1690—"Paid Goodwif Lilley, for sweeping the Meeting house for the year 1690, three bushels of Indyun Corne."

1692--- "Four women, belonging to Reading were arrested and examined for witchcraft, and imprisoned in Boston for it."

This year there was another general division of lands, on the Easterly and Westerly sides of the town. The list of the names of the Drawers is given, with their respective minister taxes, [among others,] Sergt. Henry Felch 10 s.

Joseph Felch 7 s. 6 d. John Felch 11 s.

1693—"Town voted that there should be a Free School kept in the town. Town chose Tything-men for the first time.

1701— "School Meadow was let to John Felch and Tho. Bancroft for 14 s. in money per year.

1717—"Dr. Daniel Felch and others objected to the sale by the town of Range lands. Hannah Felch, widow of Henry one of the first settlers, died this year, aged 100 years nearly. "The settlement of the territory now known as North Reading was probably commenced soon after the laying out of the 'two mile grant,' in 1666. From 1687 to '89 John Felch located on this territory.

1721—"A Catalogue of the brethren and sisters in full communion in the first church in Reading, hereunder followeth: Jan. 3 1720–1. [among others] Mary Felch.

1736—"Town voted that . . be a Committee to view the circumstances and accommodations of the highways in the town, and to bring in their thoughts and propositions, what may best be done about converting the Commons to some better use than what it is at present." [among others Ebenezer Felch dissented.]

1741--- "This year Rev. George Whitefield preached on Reading Common.

1745—"This year an expedition was sent to Nova Scotia, and war with the French and Indians was renewed. Reading furnished its quota for this expedition, as well as for war that followed and that continued for 10 or 12 years.

Among the soldiers in the French and Indian wars of 1745 to 1760, I find the name of Joseph Felch (35) who died in the service. Daniel Felch Junior (38) was also in these wars,

1767—"About this time a Y. M. C. A. was formed, probably the first in the town." Among the names of the members I find Samuel Felch.

I do not find the name of Felch again until the Revolution.

In the "Roll of the three Companies of Militia in the town of Reading belonging to the Regiment commanded by Col. David Green of Reading, as they stood April 19, 1775," I find Samuel Felch and Nathan Felch standing side by side, in the First Parish Company. Nathan Felch was great-grand father of the compiler.

In the list of Soldiers of the Revolution from Reading, I find the names of Nathan Felch, John Felch, Parker Felch, and Samuel Felch. In the Addenda we shall treat of "Reading in the Revolution."

Regarding the homestead of Ebenezer Felch, (31) of the Second Branch, I find that: "Widow Felch lived on the place now owned and occupied by Phineas Green, on Main Street. This was Margaret Felch, maiden name Margaret Toothaker from Wilmington.

John Farmer succeeded his father-in-law on the place; he had a son John, born 1767 who died in the Revolutionary war. Farmer sold the place to Samuel Weston and went to Lunenburgh Mass.

Iu 1765 Reading had 1530 inhabitants, in 1776 it had 1984.

1772, May 7, Samuel Felch md Mary Richardson.

1777, April 1, Andrew Foster md Ruth Felch.

1779, Oct 10, Nathan Felch md Polly Cheever.

The above three are children of Samuel Felch Junior.

There were members of our family living in Reading as late as 1802, after a period of 155 years beginning with 1647.



CHAPTER XII. REV. ISAAC N. FELCH.

"One in whom persuasion and belief
Had ripened into faith, and faith become
A passionate intention. Wordsworth.

The following appreciative obituary notice appeared in the columns of the New York Christian Advocate, from the pen of Rev. James M. Tuttle, on the decease of the late Rev. I. N. Felch, of Paterson New Jersey.

"Brother Felch was born in Norwalk, Conn., July 17, 1806 and died at Hackettstown, N. J., March 24, 1876, aged nearly seventy. He sought and obtained salvation at a campmeeting at Barkhamstead, Conn., Sept. 14, 1826. Removing to New Jersey, he entered upon the work, teaching a school in . Bellville, where in 1829 he was licensed as an exhorter, and in 1830 he received a license as a local preacher. Soon after, the presiding elder, Rev. Charles Pitman, sent him as a supply to Somerset Mission, as a colleague with Rev. Benjamin In 1831 he was received on trial in the Philadelphia Conference, and sent to Freehold Circuit; in 1832 to Rahway and Woodbridge; 1833 Woobdridge; 1834 New Providence; 1835-36 Haverstraw; 1837 Bloomfield; 1838-39 Elizabeth; 1840-41 Rahway; 1842 Northfield, Staten Island; 1843-44 Westfield; 1845 to 1848, Presiding Elder of Paterson District; 1849-50 Franklin Street, Newark; 1851 Camden; 1852-55

Presiding Elder of Burlington District; 1856-57 Cross Street, Paterson; 1858 Nyack, New York; at the close of this year his health so failed, he took a supernumerary relation. In 1869 he was appointed as a supply to Grace Church Paterson where he had located his family. He had much to do in founding this new and vigorous church.

Brother Felch was a member of Conference forty-five years labored as an effective man twenty-nine years, and during the sixteen years of his superannuate relation he was always ready to labor as his strength would permit. He often preached and never lost the spirit of his work. He was twice elected as a delegate to the General Conference. He was a member at Pittsburgh in 1848, and at Indianapolis in 1856. Brother Felch was a devout, earnest Christian, a good, practical preacher, never wearying his hearers with long sermons, wise in his administration of the Discipline, untiring and prompt in meeting his appointments, genial as a companion, kind and affectionate as a husband and father. He was a noble type of a faithful, earnest, Methodist preacher. He leaves behind the companion of his toils in the itinerant life, who fully sympathized with him in his work, and cheered him on in the hours of trial; also, a number of children, who will honor his memory and the Church he toiled to build up.

When the Newark Conference Collegiate Institute, at Hackettstown, was opened, he moved with his family from Paterson, that he might educate two orphan grand-children in

that institution. During his residence there, the influence of his piety, spirit, and example was felt in the community.

His death was sudden and unexpected to his friends, but it was in accordance with his wish. He had said to his dear wife "If it please God, I would prefer to die suddenly."

Previous to his death, during the day, though ill, he had been cheerful and happy in his intercourse with his family and friends. At the call to tea he wished all to go down, saying, "If I need you I will call." They had been absent but a few minutes when they heard the stroke of his cane on the floor. They hastened up stairs, but he was unconscious; the messenger had come and his pure spirit soon fled, leaving a sweet smile on his face. Thus, calmly and sweetly he passed away.

He had been a member of three conferences and had never been transferred; when the N. J. Conference was set off from the Philadelphia, he fell in it, and when this conference was divided he fell in the Newark Conference. In the history of his ministry he had witnessed great changes.

While residing in Paterson he entered upon a higher religious experience, and often afterward with evident pleasure referred to the blood that cleanseth from all unrighteousness, and regretted that he had not attained this blessed state earlier in his ministry."

Some additional data will be given in an ensuing number by his daugter, Mrs. Marcus James McKeon, Paterson N. J. and by others.



